

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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Governor Patton orders second early release of non-violent offenders to offset budget shortfalls for the Department of Corrections

FRANKFORT, KY - In his continuing efforts to manage the financial woes of the state, Gov. Paul Patton signed his second order today that allows the Department of Corrections this week to release a total of 328 non-violent Class D inmates who are nearing completion of their sentences. The inmates will be released by conditional commutation at 8 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 17.

“This continues to be a very difficult decision but one that is absolutely necessary as a part of the solution to Kentucky’s severe fiscal revenue shortfall, which is a situation shared by almost every state in the nation,” Patton said.”

The governor approved the conditional commutation of the inmates to balance the budget of the Department of Corrections, which is faced with maintaining the cost of its largest felon population in history while the state suffers repeated revenue shortfalls. The number of inmates to be released is the number required to bring the state’s Class D jail population down to the budgeted level.

The inmates to be released on Friday fall under the same specific guidelines used in determining the list of 567 inmates that were released last month, and they have an average remaining sentence of 136 days. Of the 328 inmates, 239 are housed in county jails, 83 in prisons and six in halfway houses. Offenders excluded from this early release include violent or sexual offenders and felony DUI offenders.

Additionally, a condition in the governor’s Executive Order states that if an inmate is convicted and sentenced for a new felony offense, the number of days the offender was released in advance will be added to the time he or she is ordered to serve for the new felony conviction and sentence. A complete listing of the inmates can be found at: www.cor.state.ky.us

The Department of Corrections is the agency charged with overseeing the men and women incarcerated in the state correctional facilities, community treatment centers and in controlled intake in the local jails. In December 2002, as part of the agency’s regular course of business, it released 651 inmates through parole, court order, serve out and probation. Its average release of inmates per month is 728.